

Space News ROUNDUP!

VOL. 36 NO. 19

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

July 4, 1997

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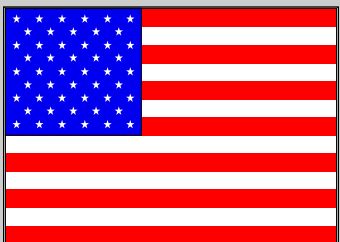
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Mir stable after Progress collides

By John Lawrence

Stable conditions have been restored aboard the Russian Mir Space Station following a collision Wednesday, June 25, with a Progress resupply vehicle.

Mir 23 Commander Vasily Tsibliev, Flight Engineer Alexander Lazutkin, and U.S. Astronaut Mike Foale are unharmed and were reported to be in good spirits following the incident, although an extreme

power-down resulted from reduced power generation from a damaged solar array on the Spektr module. Foale described the situation via audio downlink through the Wallops ground station on June 28:

"The biggest picture in all of this is we did lose the Spektr module out of this event," he said. "There's a chance that power may be restored to that module in the next few months.

"Quite a lot of American life science equipment was left in that module along with my personal effects," Foale continued. "Since then I've managed to find myself a toothbrush and toothpaste and clean clothes and even a pair of shoes to run with so life is getting back to normal.... I'm looking forward to doing the major experiments that are now left for me to do in the Priroda module, in particular the creation of gels

in space and the continuation of the Greenhouse experiment, doing two more generations, trying to actually grow the seeds that we're producing right now and planting those in the next few weeks to see if we get plants out of those.

"Other than that," he concluded, "let's just hope that things will get back together again and normal as soon as possible on the station."

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NASA Photo KSC-97EC-0922

Node 1, the first element of the International Space Station to be manufactured in the United States and the first to be launched on the space shuttle, is unloaded in its container. Support personnel removed the node from an Air Force C-5 jet cargo transport at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility on June 23 after its arrival from Marshall Space Flight Center. The 18-foot-in-diameter, 22-foot-long aluminum module was transported to the Space Station Processing Facility.

Columbia to finish science mission

By Ed Campion

Following an expedited processing session at Kennedy Space Center, *Columbia* and the STS-94 crew were to launch July 1 to complete the experiments and activities associated with Microgravity Science Laboratory-1, cut short in April because of suspect performance of a fuel cell.

The manager of NASA's microgravity research program said teams of researchers are ready to take the Microgravity Science Laboratory back into orbit with the same vehicle, crew and experiment activities originally planned during STS-83.

"Those four days allowed our science team to barely open the door to tantalizing scientific research," said Joel Kearns, manager of NASA's Microgravity Research Program

Office at Marshall Space Flight Center. "We were able to verify that we are headed in the right direction. But we were not able to reach our destination because of the shortened mission."

Kearns said the four-day test under flight conditions on STS-83 showed the experiment hardware performed "extraordinarily."

"All activated research apparatus functioned in an outstanding manner. This upcoming mission has the potential to add considerably to our basic scientific knowledge and our quality of life here on Earth," Kearns said.

Commander Jim Halsell, Pilot Susan Still, Payload Commander Janice Voss, Mission Specialists Mike Gernhardt and Don Thomas

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JSC employees to receive NASA's highest honors

NASA deputy administrator to join JSC director in presenting prestigious awards

NASA astronauts are among the employees who will receive the agency's highest honors in a ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, in Teague Auditorium.

This year's ceremony will honor individuals and groups nominated by center management and selected by the Incentive Awards Board at NASA Headquarters to receive NASA's highest honorary awards. Those selected to receive Senior Executive Service rank awards also will be recognized.

Each recipient of a NASA medal will be presented a framed certificate signed by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. Individuals selected to receive Group Achievement Awards on their team's behalf will

receive a framed certificate at the ceremony. Certificates for individual participants of teams will be forwarded to the nominating organizations at a later date. JSC Director George Abbey will make the presentations with the assistance of NASA Deputy Administrator Gen. John Dailey.

Recipients are encouraged to invite family members, friends, and coworkers to attend the ceremony with them. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held in the lobby of the auditorium for award recipients and their guests. Supervisors are encouraged to allow employees to attend as their workloads permit. For further information about the ceremony, contact Helen Harris at x38413.

First U.S.-built station module now in Florida

The International Space Station Program passed a major milestone June 23 as the first U.S.-manufactured component began a year of launch preparations at Kennedy Space Center.

A connecting module, called Node 1, was shipped by cargo aircraft to Florida from the Marshall Space Flight Center's Space Station Manufacturing Facility in Huntsville, Ala. The node will be the first U.S.-built segment for the station to reach orbit when it is launched in July 1998 aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*.

"The International Space Station has begun moving from the factory floor to the launch pad," Program Manager Randy Brinkley said. "By the time Node 1 is launched next year, pieces of the station will be leaving factories in locations worldwide to be readied for launch, and the first piece already will be in orbit. From now through the turn of the century, the processing of station components will be a major focus at the Kennedy Space Center."

The crew of *Endeavour* will use the shuttle's robotic arm to dock Node 1 with the Functional Cargo Block as the node sits atop the orbiter docking system in the shuttle's cargo bay. The Functional Cargo Block is a component that supplies early power and propulsion systems for the station. It will be the first element to be placed in orbit and will be launched two weeks before the STS-88 mission on a Russian Proton rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. After the two components are linked together, three space walks will be performed from the shuttle to connect power, data and utility lines and install exterior equipment.

"It's always a significant milestone when your hardware shows up at the Cape for processing, to be put aboard an orbiter for you to take it up into space," said STS-88 Commander Bob Cabana. "I've got to tell you, it's really something—we were over at the Space Station Processing Facility this morning taking a look at it. It's come a long way. Seeing the hardware at the Cape gives you faith that this is going to happen, that we're going to do this."

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WSTF Photo 0597-1437

WASHING WITH WATER—Paul Ziehl, an AlliedSignal mechanical technician in the White Sands Test Facility Component Test Facility, reassembles the Fleet Leader Orbital Maneuvering System engine. This engine was used to certify a water decontamination procedure to replace the previous freon and isopropyl alcohol procedure. Transferring the refurbishment task from the vendor to WSTF and implementing the cheaper procedure will save the shuttle program more than \$500,000 per engine.